

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2006, which rejected claims 1-10 and allowed claims 11-46. Applicant has amended claim 1, and claims 2-46 remain unchanged. Applicant hereby respectfully submits that all of the currently pending claims 1-46 are in condition for immediate allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. It is therefore requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-10 and issue allowance of all pending claims.

Interview Summary

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 713.04, the substance of the interview conducted on January 11, 2007 between Applicant's representative Jane Song and Examiner Michael J. Kyle is set forth below.

1. No exhibits were used or demonstrations conducted.
2. Rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 USC 112 as being incomplete for omitting essential elements was discussed. Specifically, the discussion centered on whether an "internal segment" shall be included and recited in claim 1 as an essential element to the claimed invention.
3. Applicant's representative argued that the claimed invention is focused on "an external segment" instead of the entire telescoping handle, and in that regard, an internal segment is not essential to the claimed invention of external segment.
4. In response, the Examiner suggested revising the preamble of claim 1 as follows: "external segment offor a telescoping handle", and as a result, the telescoping handle would not

be construed as a meaningful limitation to the claim. However, the Examiner also indicated that such amendment as he suggested may require additional prior art search for an external segment used in broad contexts, not just limited to telescoping handles.

Formal Matters

1. Allowed Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 11- 46 are allowed.

2. Overview of Claim Amendments

Upon the Examiner's recommendation, Applicant has amended claim 1 to further particularly describe the external segment and its relationship with the internal segment. Support for these amendments is found at least in paragraphs 20-24 and in Fig. 3 of the present application. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between elements. Specifically, the Examiner stated that an internal segment of the telescoping handle is an essential element to be recited in claim 1. For the same reason, claims 2-10 dependent from claim 1 were rejected.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite “*... to receive a locking pin for coupling an internal segment with the external segment to form the telescoping handle*”. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, overcomes the Examiner's rejection. The currently amended claim 1 is reproduced below:

1. *(Currently amended) An external segment of for a telescoping handle comprising:*
a member with an external surface and an internal surface;
a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the
hole configured to receive a locking pin for coupling an internal segment with the external
segment to form the telescoping handle; and
a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not
projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to
reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

CONCLUSION

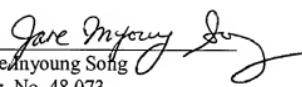
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If it is believed that prosecution can be assisted thereby, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

No fee is believed to be incurred with the filing of this Amendment and Response to Office Action. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due, or with this application during its entire pendency, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2613, referencing **38841.00002.UTL**.

Respectfully submitted,

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